MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

www.mcgenealogist.org

Volume XXV September, 2021 Number 9

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

After my wife, Dorothy Jean (Newcomb) Morse, and I retired in 1994, we moved from Independence, Missouri to Bates County, Missouri about 5 miles west of Rich Hill. We bought an acre and a half from Dorothy's cousin, Shirley (West) Tippie, and her husband, Billy. We put in a large garden and planted fruit trees, grape vines, and berry bushes. In 1999, I started keeping a gardening journal. I also kept a daily pocket calendar to help keep track of birthdays, doctor appointments, meetings, etc.

Since this year is the 20th year of the attack on America with planes crashing into the twin towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and the brave citizens that caused a fourth plane to crash in Pennsylvania, I was wondering what happened during that year. So I pulled out my "Garden 2001 Journal" and my "2001 Pocket Calendar" to see what all happened. Well, on January 1, we still had 4 to 6 inches of snow on the ground with temperatures in the teens.

Throughout the year, we had doctor appointments in Independence or Kansas City. We did keep our house in Independence, so we always had a place to spend the night when necessary.

On March 3, our son, Steve, and his girl friend, Kelly, came from Kansas City to visit us. They told us that they were going to get married, which would be the second marriage for each of them. They also told us "You are going to be grandparents". They did fly to Las Vegas on March 31 to get married.

Of course, March was a time when the garden was tilled and some plantings were done. I also sprayed the fruit trees. On March 25, the temperature dropped to 22 degrees, but we were lucky in that none of the crops that were up were destroyed.

On April 3, we went to Independence. My Aunt Isabel Elizabeth Janssens, age 96, had died and we went to the visitation on April 3 and the funeral on April 4. I do not have it written down, but I probably served as a pallbearer. She was a sister of my mother, Mildred Catherine (Janssens) Morse. Aunt Isabel was the last of the 14 children born to David and Laura Jessie (Mooney) Janssens to die. On Palm Sunday, April 8, I had a kidney stone. Dorothy drove me to Research Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. The stone passed and I was dismissed on Tuesday. I captured it and took it to my doctor and he had it analyzed. Then I started taking medication to help me not have another kidney stone attack. I have only the right kidney since the left kidney was removed on December 27, 1999 because of cancer.

I was mowing our yard in Bates County and also driving to Independence to mow the yard there every 7 to 10 days. In April, Dorothy and I went morel mushroom hunting in the wooded areas near our house and we found some each time we took a walk in the woods. We kept busy planting the garden and also planting our herb garden and planting our flower gardens. On April 27, I sprayed orchard spray on 36 fruit trees. On April 28, we picked lettuce, radishes, and onions for a salad. In May, we planted tomato plants, pepper plants, and corn seed.

On May 12, we went to Kansas City to see the house that Steve and Kelly bought just west of the Country Club Plaza. On May 31, we canned 5 jars of cherry

jelly and 5 jars of blackberry-raspberry jelly as we are now picking fruit and berries.

On June 18, we traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana to visit our son, Brian, who is a second year student at Christian Theological Seminary. We visited, shopped, and ate at restaurants. On June 20, we returned home. On June 22, we canned 7 quarts of beans, and on June 26, we picked and canned 14 quarts and 9 pints of beans. On July 4, we went to Rich Hill for the parade and to visit. We continued picking and canning. We are now enjoying corn on the cob. On July 6 and 7, the temperature hit 100 degrees. In addition to canning, we also froze vegetables, fruit, and berries.

We also went to Prescott, Kansas to the Country View Nursing Home to lead a bible study once a month. Dorothy's mother, Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb, had resided there from January 3, 1990 to June 10, 1999 when she passed away.

In July and August, we were busy eating, giving away, and canning tomatoes. On August 5, we went to Butler, Missouri for a Gaston Reunion. One of Dorothy's grandmothers was Sarah (Gaston) Newcomb, the mother of Herbert Edgar Newcomb, Dorothy's father. There were several Gaston cousins in the area and they had a reunion yearly. Some came from Kansas and Oklahoma to the reunion. In August, the grapes started coming on. We canned grape jelly and grape juice. We also were beginning to pick some apples. We had a dehydrator and dried a lot of fruit and some vegetables.

On Tuesday morning, September 11, Dorothy was watching TV, and I was on the computer. She told me to come watch after the first plane hit the building. When we saw the second plane hit the other building, we knew this was not an accident. And then one hit the Pentagon. I, as many other people did, went to town and filled up one car and some gas cans. Then, I took the other car and filled it up. I saw planes turning around and heading for the nearest airport to land as all planes were ordered to land as soon as possible. Later, I saw one plane headed in a northwestern pattern. I later heard that President Bush went from Louisiana to Nebraska.

On September 20, after going to the Country View Nursing Home, we headed to Indianapolis to see Brian. We were apprehensive, but we had no problems with getting gas or a motel. We spent the night in Kingdom City. On September 21, we arrived in Indianapolis. We visited, shopped, and ate with Brian. We also went to church at University Park Christian Church, where, in 2004, Brian was ordained as a minister. We headed home, but we made stops and did some shopping. We spent the night in Effingham, Illinois. We made more shopping stops and arrived home.

On Sunday, October 14 at 1:59 pm, Wyatt was born at St. Lukes Hospital in Kansas City. We were there and got to see him just a few minutes after birth. We were now grandparents.

With fall, we were finishing and cleaning out the garden. We were still picking fall apples. We have a large black walnut tree in the front yard and I picked, hulled, cracked, and picked out walnuts. When we went to the city we usually went to see the grandson. They also came down to Bates County.

On Thanksgiving, Steve, Kelly, Wyatt, and our neighbors, Billy and Shirley, joined us for dinner. On December 20, Brian flew to Kansas City. Steve picked him up. Brian stayed with us in the country. On Christmas Day, we went to Steve's house to celebrate. On January 3, I took Brian to the airport in Kansas City to fly back to Indianapolis.

So, 2001 turned out to be a wonderful and joyous one for our family. But also a sad one with the attack on America.

LOOKING FOR WELTYS

Marjorie Slavens

Around 1952-1953, my mother first asked her father, Edward Alonzo Welty (1884-1954,) about his parents and their families. Her father told her very little about them, and she did not know what questions she should ask. He said his father came from Lancaster County, Ohio, which does not exist. Her three sisters, Virginia, Kathryn, and Evelyn, told

her in the early '70s that she should research the family history because she was the oldest. (Difficult to understand the rationale!) She began researching at the St. Louis Public Library in the mid-1970s and publish the first edition of her *Peter Welty Family History* in 1981. She had very little information when she began her research. She knew her grandfather, Henry Welty, born April 4, 1837, came to Jasper County, Missouri after the Civil War. He was a teacher, and his wife, Catharine Mary Eppright (1848-1928), was one of his students when they met. They were married in March, 1870, and they had 8 children from Mary, born December, 1870 to Nettie, born in 1890. Their six brothers, whom Mother knew, were born between 1872 and 1887. Weltys in that generation generally did not talk much, and they certainly did not talk about their family history, so Mother depended on library books and Census microfilm to begin creating the history of the descendants of Peter Welty, the immigrant. I was teaching and could only help her in the summer, and my sisters had children and worked. When our father died in 1983, we were very glad Mother had her genealogy research, which almost became a full-time job for her.

We knew nothing about the Welty ancestors before her grandfather, Henry Welty (1837-1911). We knew he was from Ohio, and he served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Mother found him with his family in Rush Creek Township, Fairfield County Ohio near Bremen in the 1850 Census. There was no Lancaster County; Lancaster was the county seat of Fairfield County.

Mother found that his father was John Welty, born in 1800 in Pennsylvania and died in Ohio in 1875, and his mother was Mary Magdalene (Polly) Miller (1801-1844), born in Virginia. There were a number of Weltys and Millers in that area, but we could not tell which were definitely a part of our line. (We later discovered that Michael Miller came on another of the five ships from Germany to Philadelphia in 1727, as did Peter Welty.) In 1977, I decided to call Information for Bremen, Ohio and ask for a phone number for John Welty; of course, it would not be Henry's father because he died in 1875. There were three Weltys in Bremen, and one was named John. Mother did not want to call, but she wrote a letter to him. She received a response from his widow, Bessie Welty, who said her husband had died four years before this contact. However, she invited us to come to Bremen to visit her. She had no book on the Weltys, but she could give us some information and she had a book on the Miller family.

In June, my sister, Carol, took her two daughters, my parents, and me to Virginia to visit Mother's sister, Kathryn, and her family. On the way, we visited Bessie Welty in Bremen. She told us that her husband's family came from York County, Pennsylvania. Although she had no book on the Weltys, Mother found her grandfather, Henry Welty, his brothers and sisters, and her own father and his brothers and sisters in the Miller book, which was published in 1912. Henry's father, John Welty, born in 1800 in Pennsylvania, married Mary Magdalene (Polly) Miller in Fairfield County in 1823. Polly Miller Welty's sister, Barbara Miller Biery, was the mother of Sally Biery, who married John Welty's youngest brother, Abraham Welty. Sally Biery Welty was the first cousin of Henry Welty through their mothers, Barbara Miller Biery and Mary Magdalene Miller Welty, and Abraham was Henry's uncle. Sally and Abraham were the grandparents of Bessie Welty's husband, John Porter Welty.

Based on the information we received from Bessie and the Miller Book, we visited the York County (Pa.) Genealogical Society, and there, we found the wills of our immigrant ancestor, Peter Welty (?-1755), and his son, our ancestor, Johannes (John) Welty, Sr. (?-1794) , Peter's son and one of his executors. Peter, who arrived in Philadelphia in 1727, only listed his two sons by name and did not list his daughters, but John listed all of his 13 children and the names of the husbands of his daughters.

We also visited the Mennonite Library in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and the Ahmish communities in and around Lancaster, not knowing anything about this part of our family history before we began our trip. We all enjoyed the activities and food in this area

and were glad to be able to experience this culture from which our Welty and Miller ancestors came. John Welty (1800-1875) , Henry's father, was no longer a Mennonite.

Mother had found many Welty descendants of Peter's other son, Abraham, in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Missouri, but she could not determine their relationship to us before we discovered Peter Welty's will, in which he left his estate to his sons, John and Abraham. When Mother finished her book on the Welty family, I donated copies to the York County Genealogical Society and the Mid-Continent Library in Independence. She made a number of excellent contacts through the donation of these books, as well as online. Returning home from Mexico a few years later, I found in my college mail 100 pages of the history of the descendents of Abraham Welty and a request from one of his descendants for an exchange of this material for a copy of Mother's Welty book. He found this book in the York County Genealogical Society Library, but they were charging a dollar a page for copies of pages from the 100 page book. Of course, we were very glad to make that exchange, and Mother was able to include his material and information, which she had gathered previously but could not relate to our family line, in the second and third editions of Her *Peter Welty Family History*.

When John Welty,Sr., son of Peter, died in 1794, his 13 children sold his land in York County and took their families first to Western Pennsylvania, where we found the will of John's wife, Eve Cocghnower. Some of their children, including John Welty, Jr., eleventh child of John and Eve, took their families to Fairfield, Perry, and Hocking Counties in Ohio. One of John, Jr. and Elizabeth Welty's children was our ancestor, John, 1800-1875, married to Mary Magdalene Miller and father of Henry Welty. Another son was Christian Welty, who lived in Hocking County, Ohio, just south of the Welty farm in Fairfield County. Christian's son was Jefferson, father of Christian Webb Welty,the father of American author, Eudora Welty. Christian Webb Welty moved to Jackson Mississippi, where Eudora was born and continued to live. Mother sent copies of her books to Eudora Welty, but she did not respond. Mother's interest was genealogical and not literary. Eudora Welty did not want her work to be analyzed according to her biography, but following the publication of Mother's second edition, she wrote her autobiography, *One Writer's Beginnings* and was interviewed by Jim lehrer in a TV special about her life.

FAMILY OF PETER WELTY

Mildred Welty Slavens

Peter Welty came to this country in 1727. As it seems that there is no written record of the Welty family, the information concerning it must be put together with the help of information on other people who came to this country about the same time. It has been determined that some of the Weltys were active in the Anabaptist movement in Switzerland as early as 1534. The Anabaptists were followers of Zwingli who opposed infant baptism in the Catholic Church and held the church to be composed of true Christians, baptized on confession of faith, and advocated separation of church and state. The Welty family originated in the communes of Ruderswil and Lauperswil in the canton of Berne. Many of these people became Mennonites, and due to the severe persecution of them in Switzerland, they fled to the Palatinate area of southwest Germany.

Peter Welty left Germany with a group of Mennonites, led by their preacher, Hans Oberholtzer, and deacon, Christian Moyer, on May 12, 1727. They were mostly from Kriegsheim and Alzey. They had heard about land that was available in America, and they decided to leave Germany. They came from a region on the Rhine near Manheim.

The majority of the Mennonites in this group sailed on the Friendship, the last of five ships in this group, and landed October 16, 1727 at Philadelphia. The five ships carried 150 Swiss Mennonite families.
The families had traveled up the Rhine River to Rotterdam. After leaving Rotterdam, the ship, Friendship, stopped at the port of Cowes and received clearance to go to America from the

customs officers on June 20, 1727. Due to adverse winds, it took four months to make the journey. There were 46 families with a total of 200 persons on board.

The ship arrived in Philadelphia October 16, 1727. On September 14 of that year, the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania had ordered that all immigrants arriving at the port of Philadelphia be required to sign a declaration of fidelity to the king of Great Britain and to the proprietor of the province. Peter Welty signed the declaration with his mark, 'P'. The preacher, Hans Oberholtzer, and six other heads of families died on the Atlantic crossing, and ten other men were too sick to sign the statement of allegiance when the Friendship reached port. We do not know how many women and children died on ship board. . . (*Pennsylvania German Pioneers* includes a list of the men , including Peter Welty, who signed the list of arriving immigrants in Philadelphia.)).

The original group of Swiss Mennonites had settled in 1710 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, which was part of Chester County at that time. The Mennonites who survived the voyage in 1727 joined their former neighbors from Kriegsheim and Alzey in the settlements between Perkilmen and Skippit Creeks. In 1728, most of that land was already taken.

From 1727 to 1733, most of these new immigrants lived on the east side of the Susquehanna River, but later, three or four went further west to what later became York County, and Peter Welty was one of these. Michael Danner, who spoke both German and English, was their leader as they settled under Maryland rights.

Peter Welty settled in the area then known as Digges Choice. When Lord Baltimore gave this grant, the land was believed to be in Maryland. In 1728, John Digges obtained a grant for 10,000 acres surrounding the city of Hanover. Peter Welty settled here before 1737 under Maryland rights. Michael Danner, who was a large land owner there in 1747, asked that the township be called Manheim after his native place in Germany.

Danner and some others, including Peter Welty, presented a petition to the king on August 18, 1737 concerning the conditions in the Maryland-Pennsylvania settlement. The Mason-Dixon line was created at that time. When the land was surveyed, it was found to be in Pennsylvania. A history of Adams County, Pennsylvania states that the region around Gettysburg was known as the Manor of the Marsh, established by warrant of the Penns in 1740. People had many problems with the Indians in the area. It was difficult to get the titles to the land cleared since some had warrants from Pennsylvania, and some had warrants from Maryland. Peter's warrant was dated February 26, 1745 for 97 3/4 acres.

The settlement near Hanover was the oldest permanent settlement in York County. This group formed the nucleus for Bair's Hanover Church. Peter Welty and his sons, John and Abraham, were part of this settlement. This church is located on highway 116 between Hanover and Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. The first school in the district was at this location. John Welty, son of Peter, was an elder in this church. John Welty and several other land owners gave the land for the church and for the adjoining cemetery. Bair's Meeting House still has an active congregation with regular services.

In 1727, there were five ships that brought Palatines to America at the same time Peter Welty arrived on the Friendship. One was named Molly and landed at Philadelphia September 30, 1727. One of the passengers was Christian Welty. He may have been a brother of Peter Welty, but it is not certain. They were both Mennonites and came at the same time. One source said that Christian Welty came from Bergdorf, Switzerland.

Christian settled in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. He took out a patent for 200 acres in 1746. His land lay a mile northeast of the Lancaster-Marietta turnpike in Hempfield Township. He died in 1749.

Peter Welty made a will June 30, 1755. It was probated on August 22, 1755. He named his wife, Catherina. His sons were Abraham and John. The executors were to be John Welty (his son) and

Michael Danner. One of the daughters must have been Catherina, who was married to Daniel Reisher. A record of a land transaction dated June 4, 1761 between Daniel Reisher and wife, Katrina, and John Welty states that "Peter Welty was the father of both parties".

WEBINAR RECOMMENDATION: GENEALOGY RECORDS YOU CAN FIND AT INTERNET ARCHIVE

Julia Morse

I have written (and presented) about Internet Archive before, but there is so much there, it is worth a deeper dive. This month, I turn to Lisa Louise Cooke of the blog "Genealogy Gems" to add her suggestions and experience. These come from her webinar, "10 Awesome Genealogy Finds at the Internet Archive," which you can view in full at https://lisalouisecooke.com/2021/02/15/internet-archive/.

Lisa notes ten categories of records that are worth exploring on Internet Archive:

(1) Church records

(2) Family records (such as self-published family histories, or possibly even scanned handwritten records from family Bibles)

(3) Location-based records, (such as county history books, city directories, plat maps)

(4) School records (such as yearbooks and student newspapers)

(5) Work-related records, (such as trade journals and trade organization news, corporate histories, Civilian Conservation Corps and WPA documents)

(6) Military records (such as newsreels, military radio shows, photographic records, Veterans Administration payment records, and WWI county honor books)

(7) Patent records, (which can sometimes search up different results than on Google Patents)

(8) Probate records (particularly old historical books which have transcribed early probate records) [Julia's Tip: Alternatively, FamilySearch has recently completed digitizing their entire microfilm collection, including probate records. Search out what they have by county.]

(9A) Audio records (such as oral history interviews, old radio shows, and old music digitized from 78's and Edison cylinders—in case you had an ancestor who was a performer or who was interviewed on radio, etc.)

(9B) Video records (such as old home movies, promotional movies, movie theater newsreels, local shows and news, history documentaries, and historical film digitized by local history societies)

(10) Collections, (such as Newspapers, Genealogy, Reclaim the Records)

Both Lisa's webinar video and the launch page (https://lisalouisecooke.com/2021/02/15/internet-archive/) review tips for searching Internet Archive. She provides examples of all these types of records and demonstrates different ways of searching for them.

Lisa also demonstrates another feature of Internet Archive: how you can sign up for a free Internet Archive account which allows you to "check out" copyright, material (such as a modern library book) to read free on your computer for a restricted period of time. This allows you the opportunity to explore expensive books otherwise not available for viewing online.

INTERNET ARCHIVE POWER SEARCH TIPS

Julia Morse

Lisa Louise Cooke's webinar "10 Awesome Genealogy Finds at the Internet Archive," (https://lisalouisecooke.com/2021/02/15/internet-

archive/) demonstrates different ways to search and explore Internet Archive. However, she correctly notes that these searches all depend on your key search terms (such as the name of a person or locality) depend on this name having been placed in the "metadata," or indexing information, associated with the record of that media item.

These searches will not pick up the name of your ancestor who has a brief mention (along with hundreds of others) in a county history document, newspaper, or other document. However, there are two good ways to search the entire digitized texts and transcripts at Internet Archive for names of your family or their hometown:

(1) Internet Archive has a "search Full Text" option which you can check when doing a search from their search bars, or from their Advanced Search.

(2) Use Google search's site search feature. Here's how it works: Type your ancestor name or place name in quotation marks, then one space, and then key in site:archive.org
Using "site:" restricts your Google search to just records in Internet Archive. This helps you bypass more modern records and occurrences of your search term, honing in on library-type records held by Internet Archive and its participating libraries.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING WHEN...?

Marjorie Slavens

Al Morse's "The President's Corner" article about the twentieth anniversary of 911 reminded me of other occasions when many of us remembered exactly where we were and what we were doing on a very significant occasion. Some time in the future, our descendants may ask the question about what we were doing when, and it may help to record such information if we are no longer here to tell them.

When I was a junior in high school, my history teacher, who had also taught the parents of the students my age, asked what we were doing on Pearl Harbor Day. That question had been very appropriate in history classes for many years, but no one in my class could answer the question. Finally, she asked me, one of her best history students, and I responded, "I don't remember. I was only 5 years old". I understand she never asked the question in class again. Of course, my older brother and sister remembered the day and what they were doing, but I remember nothing about it.

One of our former MCG members whom many of you would remember, Jane Dodson, certainly remembered what she was doing on December 7, 1941. She had gone to Hawaii to marry her husband, Al Dodson, who was a Navy pilot. Her invitations said the wedding was on December 14, but Al's superior officer told him to marry her sooner and make her a Navy dependent because they might not remain in Hawaii long; they were married on December 11.

I remember clearly where I was when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. I was a graduate student at St. Louis University in a Brazilian Novel course taught by a Jesuit. There were four students,and the others were Catholics. The instructor entered the class and said, "The Protestants have done it. They would not let a Catholic be President". The two nuns in my next class were much calmer. The assassination occurred on Friday, and we did not have classes again until the following Wednesday.

I was in Lisbon when Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated and in Guatemala when President Richard Nixon resigned. Such events seem so much worse when one is out of the country.

Officers

Al Morse, President
Marjorie Slavens, Newsletter Editor
Julia Morse, Website Administrator, Digital Librarian